CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A camera comprising:

a single lens;

a plurality of image sensors, each of the plurality of image sensors having distinct characteristics; and

an optical device positioned between the lens and the plurality of image sensors to direct light rays from the lens to one of the plurality of image sensors.

2. The camera of claim 1, wherein the optical device comprises a body having a plurality of surfaces, at least one of the plurality of surfaces is operable to reflect a predetermined portion of the light rays from the lens to one of the plurality of image sensors.

3. The camera of claim 1, wherein the optical device comprises a body made of a refractive medium to refract a predetermined portion of the light rays from the lens to one of the plurality of image sensors.

4. The camera of claim 1, wherein the optical device comprises a body and a panel, the panel is operable to prevent the light rays from passing through the body while the body remains stationary.

5. The camera of claim 4, wherein the panel comprises a liquid crystal display (LCD) panel.

6. The camera of claim 4, wherein the panel is a movable opaque panel.

7. The camera of claim 1, wherein the optical device reflects a first predetermined portion of the light rays from the lens to a first one of the plurality of image sensors and passes a second predetermined portion of the light rays to a second one of the plurality of image sensors.

8. The camera of claim 1, further comprising a control device to move the optical device in order to direct the light rays to a predetermined one of the plurality of image sensors.

9. The camera of claim 1, further comprising an electronic controller to select signals output by one of the plurality of image sensors.

10. The camera of claim 1, wherein the optical device comprises an infrared filter.

11. The camera of claim 1, wherein the optical device comprises a prism.

12. The camera of claim 1, wherein the plurality of image sensors comprise at least one color image sensor and at least one black-and-white image sensor.

13. The camera of claim 1, wherein the plurality of image sensors comprise at least one complementary metal oxide semiconductor (CMOS) sensor and at least one charge coupled device (CCD) sensor.

14. A method to capture an image using a camera, the method comprising:

receiving light rays through a single lens mounted within the camera; and

adjusting paths of the light rays to direct the light rays to only one of a plurality of image sensors installed within the camera, each of the plurality of image sensors having distinct characteristics.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein adjusting the paths of the light rays includes moving an optical device to a predetermined position corresponding to the one image sensor.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein adjusting the paths of the light rays further includes reflecting the light rays by the optical device onto the one image sensor.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein adjusting the paths of the light rays further includes refracting the light rays using the optical device such that the light rays are directed onto the one image sensor through the optical device.

18. The method of claim 14, further comprising filtering the light rays to remove a predetermined component of the light rays.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein filtering the light rays comprises removing an infrared component from the light rays.

20. The method of claim 14, further comprising selecting image signals from one of the plurality of image sensors.

21. A camera comprising:

means for receiving light rays through a single lens mounted within the camera; and

means for adjusting paths of the light rays to direct the light rays to one of a plurality of image sensors installed within the camera, each of the plurality of image sensors having distinct characteristics.

22. The camera of claim 21, wherein the means for adjusting paths of the light rays includes:

means for selecting image signals from one of the plurality of image sensors.